assistance. Loan agreement for the Kerala Water Supply Project having both rural and urban components was signed on 25.2.97 for Ten 11,997 million. the project is yet to take off and so far no disbursement has been made under the project.

No such project with assistance from OECF, Japan is under implementation in Orissa.

**Problems of settlers at Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in Andhra Pradesh**

*316. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a notice from the National Human Rights Commission on the issue of settlers at Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the petition;

(c) the name of the petitioner;

(d) whether any effort has been made to contact the petitioner;

(e) whether any demand has been made for a visit of the concerned officials to the site; and

(f) the steps proposed to reconcile the demands of the petitioner and the rules of land allotment to settlers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The land was handed over to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 3.8.1987. In the petition of Dr. P. Pulla Rao received through National Human Rights Commission, the case of about 20,000 settlers/displaced people living on the defence land of Tadepalligudem aerodrome has been pleaded. It has been stated in the petition that these people are living on this land for the last 50 years without legal rights and that they are ready to pay for their rights. The petitioner in his representations has also made a request for the visit of the concerned official to the site.

(f) The report has been submitted by Government on the facts of the case to the National Human Rights Commission. The directives of the Commision are awaited. Also, as the custodial responsibility of the said land vests with the State Government therefore, the matter has also been taken up with the State Government. Further, it may be stated that the surplus land is to be disposed of as per the laid down procedure. The order of priority in which the surplus land is to be offered is as under:—

(i) Other Ministries of the Central Government.

(ii) State Government.

(iii) Local Bodies.

(iv) Educational and charitable institutions.

(v) Ex-servicemen.

**Censure of Bihar Government by Patna High Court**

*317. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Patna High Court has censured the Bihar Government for defying the Court's directives and has observed that the same amounted to Constitutional break-down, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th October, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of orders passed by the Patna High Court during the last three years and how many of them were defied by the State Government; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to available information, the number of cases disposed of by the Patna High Court during the last three years was as under:—

| Year | Number of cases disposed of |
|---|---|
| 1996 | 78878 |
| 1997 | 93306 |
| 1998 | 102382 |

Available information also indicates that 3,396 contempt cases were pending against the State Government of Bihar in the Patna High Court as on 30.9.1998.

The Central Government expects that the State Government of Bihar would look into the relevant cases immediately and take necessary action on the directions issued by the Patna High Court.

**ग्रामीण क्षेत्रें में रोजगार के अवसर**

*318. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री 24 फरवरी, 1999 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 286 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रोजगार के अवसरों में वृद्धि करने के लिए वर्ष 1995-96 से 1998-99 तक केन्द्रीय सरकार तथा राज्य सरकारों द्वारा प्रति वर्ष व्यय की गई तथा राज्य-वार व्यय की गई राशि कितनी-कितनी है;

(ख) रोजगार के अवसरों का सृजन करने संबंधी योजनाओं के लिए दी गई राशि से प्रत्येक राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रति वर्ष कितनी राशि ब्याज के रूप में प्राप्त की गई है; और

(ग) इस ब्याज की राशि के उपयोग के संबंध में दिए गए निर्देश तथा की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री राज्य मंत्री (**श्री बाबागौड़ा पाटील**): (क) से (ग) रोजगार पैदा करने वाली योजनाओं पर वर्ष 1995-96 से 1998-99 तक केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा व्यय की गयी राशि का वर्षवार और राज्य-वार विवरण अनुपत्र में दिया गया है। (**देखिए परिशिष्ट 186, अनुपत्रसं॰ - 36**) जिला ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसियों को इन योजनाओं के लिए सरकार से मिली निधियों पर ब्याज मिलता है। हालांकि जिला ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसियों को मिलने वाले ब्याज की ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय द्वारा मॉनीटरिंग नहीं की जाती है लेकिन ऐसे ब्याज के उपयोग से संबंधित अनुदेशों में यह निर्धारित है कि:

सामान्यत:, जिला ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसियों को मिले ब्याज का उपयोग कार्यक्रम के संसाधनों में वृद्धि करने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए। मंत्रालय ने दिनांक 9.1.1996 के परिपत्र के अनुसार यह भी निर्णय लिया है कि जिला ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसियों को मिले ब्याज का उपयोग केवल मिनी आई टी आई की स्थापना पर होने वाले अनावर्ती व्यय को पूरा करने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए।

**Rationalisation of Tariff in Power Sector**

*319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister recently stressed the need for tariff rationalisation in the power sector, to make SEBs more viable and efficient;

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined the aspect of tariff rationalisation throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of SEBs suffering losses since the past 3 years and the exact amount of losses suffered by them; and

(e) to what extent the power tariff rationalisation is going to help them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The establishment of Electricity Regulatory Commissions at the Centre and in the States under the ERC Act, 1998 is primarily aimed at rationalising electricity tariffs throughout the country. While State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have become fully functional in Orissa and Haryana, it is at various stages of implementation in most of the other States.

(d) The figures of surplus/deficit of all SEBs taken together for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 with and without subsidy are given below:

Rs. in Crores.

| Years | With Subsidy | Without Subsidy |
|---|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 1125.36 | - 4360.80 |
| 1995-96 | 1237.53 | - 6748.68 |
| 1996-97 | 833.03 | - 6835.46 |

(e) The poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) is *inter-alia* attributed to the irrational tariff structure. Rationalisation of tariff will improve their financial health.

**Crimes in Trains**

*320. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: